

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this Application.

Applicant respectfully thanks the Office for the withdrawal of the previous prior art rejections.

However, in the present Office Action, the Office stills rejects all of claims 1-29 in view of a newly cited prior art reference, namely Lucus (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,134). More specifically, the Office rejected all 29 claims as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Lucus.

The Present Invention

The present invention is a method and apparatus for automatically opening files of particular types on a computer using attributes such as window size and window position dictated by how the user previously positioned and sized windows when viewing files of the same type.

It further includes the concept of, when a user opens a certain file of a first type (the first file), automatically opening a second file that has some file name attribute relative to the file name of the first file. For instance, whenever a file having a particular given name with a first file type extension, e.g., johnsmith.doc, is opened, the computer will automatically open a second file having the same file name but a file name extension of a second type, e.g., johnsmith.pdf. The invention is particularly useful for

users who repeatedly open one or more files of certain types that they would like to be sized and positioned in the same place every time and/or repeatedly need to open two related files and view them simultaneously, such as might be necessary for repetitive data entry tasks.

In short, the software of the present invention remembers at least one display attribute of a file being used by a user, for instance, the position and size of the window in which the file is displayed. Then, when the user opens another file of the same file type, it will automatically open in a window in the same position and of the same size as a previous file of the same type. The invention can be applied to several different file types so that a user can open multiple files that he/she may need to view simultaneously and they will always open up in the position and size windows that the user desires.

The Lucas Reference

The Lucas reference pertains to the display of computer files and documents on a computer display. Furthermore, it pertains to the permanent storage of "ephemeral" attributes of a document, including display attributes (such as its coordinates on the display screen) for re-use when the document is displayed a next time. However, contrary to the present invention, Lucas has nothing to do with applying those display attributes to other files of the same type (which is a core concept of the present invention).

More specifically, Lucas discloses a computer-controlled information management system in which documents in the system have permanent attributes and ephemeral attributes, each attribute having a name and a value. Attributes that are normally permanently stored are called permanent attributes. Attributes that typically are created only when the document is being displayed, such as information regarding the position on the display unit, are called ephemeral attributes. In accordance with the disclosure of Lucas, ephemeral attributes may be converted into permanent attributes and stored with the documents after the user is done referencing or modifying them.

In accordance with another aspect of Lucas that the Office deemed significant, Lucas employs a feature referred to as "strands". In accordance with this feature, multiple documents are collected together as a strand and can be treated as a unit. However, again, a strand is a predefined set of documents. There is no discussion whatsoever in Lucas of applying the display attributes of one document to another document.

Traversal of Prior Art Rejections

Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejections based on Lucas. It should be apparent from the discussion above that Lucas does not teach one of the core concepts of the present invention, namely, applying display attributes that are set in connection with one document to another document based on that other document being of the same file type as the one document. The Office refers to Column 9, lines 15-26, column 10, lines 23-54, column 11, lines 17-38, and column 18, lines 45-64 as

being relevant to this claim feature. However, a review of those portions of Lucas reveals no discussion whatsoever of applying attributes of one file to any other file. The cited portions of Lucas discuss strictly applying a given attribute to the single file with which that attribute was originally associated. There is no suggestion of applying it to any other file, let alone applying it to another file based on file type.

Accordingly, with reference to independent claim 1, Lucas does not teach either of steps (3) and (4), which recite "when another file of the type of said first file is opened by an operator for display, accessing said stored data indicating said value of said at least one attribute" (step (3) and "displaying said another file of the type of said first file using the same value of said at least one attribute as said first file".

Dependent claim 12 further distinguishes over Lucas by adding the feature of opening a second file of a certain file type whenever a first file of another file type is opened, the second file having the same defined relationship with the first file as the two files previously displayed simultaneously.

Lucas clearly does not disclose what is claimed in claim 12. While Lucas does appear to disclose opening a group of files with one command, it opens the second and subsequent files simply because they are in a predefined workgroup and not for any reason relevant to file types.

Lucas, therefore, does not teach the limitations of steps (5) and (6) of claim 12. Particularly, there is nothing in the workgroup concept of Lucas that teaches "storing data associated with said type of said first file indicating at least a type of said second

file relative to said first file". Rather, in Lucas, there is simply a list of specific files in a workgroup.

Furthermore, Lucas does not teach "when another file of the type of said first file is opened for display, automatically opening another file of the same type as said second file pending the same relationship to said another file of said first type as said second file had to said first file". As previously mentioned, Lucas discloses no concept of applying attributes from one file to another file, let alone doing so based on file type.

Independent claim 21 recites subject matter similar to claim 1 and, thus, distinguishes over Lucas for essentially the same reasons as claim 1. Particularly, claim 21 recites "using the same value to display said another file", that value being previously defined as "a value of at least one display attribute of a first displayable file on a computer".

Dependent claim 25 recites subject matter similar to dependent claim 12 discussed above and, thus, even further distinguishes over the prior art for the same reasons given above in connection with claim 12.

All other claims depend from one of claims 1 and 21. Accordingly, they distinguish over the prior art for at least the same reasons.

Miscellaneous Claim Amendments

Applicant has entered various minor amendments to the claims in order to (1) broaden them, (2) correct typographical and grammatical errors, and/or (3) to improve their form. Most notably, throughout the claims, applicant has replaced the language

referring to a "next file" with language referring to "another file". This terminology is believed to be potentially less limiting. Further, in claim 1 step (4), the language has been simplified. Furthermore, a typographical error in claim 21 has been corrected. In addition, Applicant has rearranged the words in the last paragraph of claim 25 in order to simplify its grammar.

Finally, dependent claim 26 previously erroneously referred back to claim 12, whereas it should have referred back to claim 25 for dependence. Applicant has corrected this error.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone call in order to further the prosecution of this case in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

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